

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-32 are pending.

The specification has been amended to correct minor typographical errors.

Claims 1-4 and 10-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Henry (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0008567). Applicants respectfully traverse this art grounds of rejection.

The Examiner relies on Fig. 4 of Henry in asserting anticipation of the claimed invention. Fig. 4 illustrates a switching structure composed of switches S1, S2, S3 and S4. The switches in one state, connect a primary power source 102, a capacitor C_x , and a variable current source 122 in series. During this state, the capacitor C_x is charged. In a second state, the above-mentioned switches connect the primary power source 102, and the capacitor C_x in series with a load 400. (See paragraphs 103-113 of Henry).

As the Examiner will appreciate, the control current produced by the variable current source 122 is only supplied to the capacitor C_x when the capacitor C_x is charged. In the non-charged state, the variable source current 122 is not even connected with the capacitor C_x . As a result, Henry cannot disclose or suggest a voltage generating circuit "configured to receive the

control current while the charges stored in the charge storing element are used to generate the boosted voltage," as recited in claim 1.

Independent claim 17 includes similar limitations to those discussed above with respect to claim 1, and therefore is not anticipated or rendered obvious by Henry for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Dependent claims 2-4, 10-16, and 18-25, dependent upon one of claims 1 and 17, are patentable for the reasons stated above with respect to claims 1 and 17 as well as on their own merits.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this art grounds of rejection.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ting (U.S. Patent No. 6,198,340). Applicants respectfully traverse this art grounds of rejection.

In making his art grounds of rejection, the Examiner asserts that Fig. 4 of Ting illustrates a voltage generating circuit 48 and a control circuit 50 wherein the control circuit 50 supplies a control current (the output of element 50) to the voltage generating circuit 48. The Examiner then relies on Fig. 1C of Ting as showing an exemplary voltage generating circuit. With respect to claims 4, 5, and 7-9, the Examiner recognizes deficiencies in Ting with respect to these claims, and asserts that Myono overcomes these deficiencies.

Column 6, lines 7-29 describe the operation of the pump circuit 48 and limit circuit 50 illustrated in Fig. 4 of Ting. As clearly evidenced by this

disclosure, the limit circuit 50 only enables or disables operation of the pump circuit 48. Namely, the limit circuit 50 is described as detecting if the voltage output from the pump circuit is smaller than the value V_{ph} . When lower than this value, the limit circuit 50 enables the pump circuit 48, otherwise, the pump circuit 40 is controlled to be off. As the Examiner will appreciate, the generation of an enabling signal is not the generation of a control current. Furthermore, this is not the generation of a control current which is received "while the charges stored in the charge storing element are used to generate the boosted voltage," as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Ting does not anticipate or render claim 1 obvious to one skilled in the art. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this art grounds of rejection.

Also, claims 4, 5 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Ting in view of Myono (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0030534). Applicants respectfully traverse this art grounds of rejection.

The Examiner will also readily appreciate that even assuming one skilled in the art would combine Myono with Ting, the Myono disclosure does not overcome the above-described deficiencies of the Ting patent.

Therefore, Ting in view of Myono does not render claim 1 obvious to one skilled in the art, and dependent claims 4, 5 and 7-9 are patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this art grounds of rejection.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. At this time, claim 6 is believed dependent upon an allowable independent claim, and therefore has not been rewritten. By this Amendment, new claims 26-32 have been added. Claims 26-31 depend from allowable claim 1, and are therefore considered allowable at least for this reason. Furthermore, claim 32 recites a control circuit configured to "supply the control current to the voltage generating circuit while the charges stored in the charge storing element are used to generate the boosted voltage." As discussed above with respect to claim 1, none of the references cited by the Examiner disclose or suggest such a feature.

CONCLUSION

In view of above remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding rejection and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

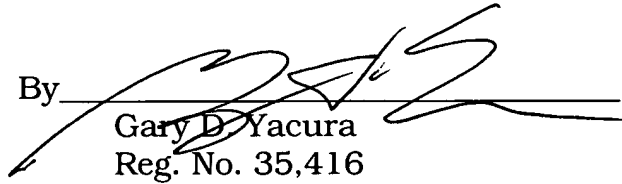
If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, PLC

By



Gary D. Yacura
Reg. No. 35,416

GDY:jcp

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, VA 20195
(703) 668-8000